

THE WASHINGTON STAR (GREEN LINE)  
9 February 1976

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## State Dept. Silent On Soviet Radiation

United Press International

The State Department is concerned, but publicly silent, about reports from security experts in Moscow that the U.S. Embassy is being exposed to microwave radiation.

Authoritative sources said yesterday the United States is seeking an explanation from the Soviet foreign ministry about the reported microwave bombardment.

But although the situation has been known to American technical experts for a month or more the United States so far has received no satisfactory explanation, the sources said.

PRESIDENT FORD, asked about the reports while campaigning in New Hampshire yesterday, said: "I do not think it is a matter that should be discussed at this time. If it is true, it is a very serious situation."

The State Department had no comment on the report, and department officials involved in U.S.-Soviet relations have been instructed not to discuss it.

One official, questioned by UPI, said he could not comment on the report but also indicated that he was not denying it.

The problem first came

to light when Robert Toth, Moscow correspondent of the Los Angeles Times, reported that U.S. Ambassador Walter J. Stoessel convened a secret briefing last Friday to discuss the situation with embassy personnel.

Stoessel was reported to have warned his staff that the radiation could have harmful health effects.

THERE HAS BEEN speculation that the radiation is intended to activate hidden microphones in the embassy building, to interfere with the American antijamming devices, or — according to a more sinister explanation — to induce a state of lethargy or depression among U.S. diplomats.

The embassy was reportedly bombarded with microwaves in the early 1960s in a similar incident, the sources said.

Science Magazine reported in September 1972 that the Defense Department subsequently had requested the Advanced Research Products Agency to study what effects low-level microwave radiation would have on experimental monkeys and on human beings.

But the magazine reported that the experiments proved to be inconclusive.